

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SALVAD 00031 072027Z
ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 COME-00 HA-05 /024 W
-----007715 080423Z /61

R 071925Z MAR 78
FM AMCONSUL SALVADOR
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0378
AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
INFO AMCONSUL BELEM
AMCONSUL RECIFE
AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO
AMCONSUL SAO PAULO

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS : PORS SHUM BR
SUBJECT : STATE OF BAHIA'S PURCHASE OF US FINGERPRINT
COMPUTER SYSTEM

REF: (A) SALVADOR MEMO "HUMAN RIGHTS AND BAHIA PURCHASE OF US
COMPUTER", JUNE 17, 1977; (B) 77 STATE 131133

1. SUMMARY. DELAY IN RENEWAL OF AN EXPORT LICENSE BY DEPART-
MENT OF COMMERCE IS HOLDING UP COMPLETION OF SALE OF AUTO-
MATIC FINGERPRINT RECORDING AND RETRIEVAL SYSTEM TO SECRETARIAT
OF PUBLIC SECURITY OF STATE OF BAHIA. STATE SECRETARY HAS COME
TO CONSULATE TO REQUEST ASSISTANCE IN EXPEDITING RENEWAL OF
LICENSE PREVIOUSLY ISSUED IN 1976 AND 1977. CONSUL STATED HE
HAD NO KNOWLEDGE OF STATUS OF LICENSE APPLICATION BUT WOULD
INQUIRE. FOR REASONS DISCUSSED IN REF (A) AND SUMMARIZED
IN THIS MESSAGE CONSUL RECOMMENDS PROMPT ISSUANCE OF EXPORT
LICENSE. PLEASE INFORM SOONEST STATUS OF APPLICATION AND ANY
INFORMATION THAT CONSUL MAY GIVE TO STATE SECRETARY. END
SUMMARY.

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2. THE ISSUE: ON MARCH 2 SECRETARY OF PUBLIC SECURITY AND
DIRECTOR OF DEPARTMENT OF TECHNICAL POLICE OF STATE OF BAHIA
CAME TO CONSULATE TO REQUEST CONSUL'S ASSISTANCE IN EXPEDITING
RENEWAL OF EXPORT LICENSE TO ROCKWELL AEROSPACE AND ELECTRONICS
CORPORATION FOR SHIPMENT TO SECRETARIAT OF PUBLIC SECURITY OF
AN AUTOMATIC DACTYLOSCOPIC IDENTIFICATION SYSTEM (I.E., WHICH
CAN RECORD AND RETRIEVE FINGERPRINTS). PURCHASE OF SYSTEM HAS

BEEN UNDER DISCUSSION SINCE 1976. ACCORDING TO SECRETARY OF PUBLIC SECURITY, (1) STATE SECRETARIAT SIGNED CONTRACT FOR ACQUISITION OF SYSTEM WITH ROCKWELL IN APRIL, 1977; (2) PURCHASE RECEIVED CLEARANCE FROM APPROPRIATE GOB AUTHORITY (STATE SECRETARY TEMPORARILY FORGOT WHICH ONE); (3) BRAZILIAN CENTRAL BANK EXEMPTED TRANSACTION FROM THE PRIOR IMPORT DEPOSIT AND IMPORT TAXES; AND (4) FINANCING WAS ARRANGED THROUGH UNION OF BANKS OF CALIFORNIA, GUARANTEED BY THE BANK OF THE STATE OF BAHIA, AND APPROVED BY CENTRAL BANK. THE ONLY REMAINING INGREDIENT NEEDED FOR THE SHIPMENT IS THE US DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE EXPORT LICENSE. STATE SECRETARY NOTED THAT ROCKWELL OBTAINED THIS LICENSE IN 1976 FOR THE SHIPMENT OF THE DACTYLOSCOPIC SYSTEM TO BAHIA, AND RECEIVED A RENEWAL WITHIN A WEEK OF REQUESTING IN 1977. THIS YEAR ROCKWELL REQUESTED RENEWAL IN JANUARY. ON MARCH 1, ROCKWELL REPRESENTATIVE AND CHIEF CONTACT FOR SALE TO BAHIA, ALEXANDRE TICHY, TELEPHONED FROM ANAHEIM, CALIFORNIA, TO BAHIA TO INFORM STATE SECRETARIAT THAT RENEWAL OF EXPORT LICENSE WAS DELAYED AND THAT ROCKWELL DID NOT UNDERSTAND REASON FOR THIS AND WAS CONCERNED. THE EXPORT LICENSE APPLICATION NUMBER IS 215598.

3. STATE SECRETARY ADDED THAT STATE GOVERNMENT OF SAO PAULO MAY BE HAVING SAME DIFFICULTY AS BAHIAN SINCE SAO PAULO HAS ALSO BEEN INTERESTED IN PURCHASE OF ROCKWELL SYSTEM.

4. CONSUL TOLD STATE SECRETARY THAT WE HAD NO INFORMATION ON LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THE EXPORT LICENSE APPLICATION BUT THAT WE WOULD INQUIRE AND REPORT BACK.

5. POST COMMENT: POST HOPES SLOWNESS IN EXPORT LICENSE RENEWAL IS SIMPLY DUE TO BUREAUCRATIC HANDLING, AND THEREFORE, CAN BE RAPIDLY REMEDIED. FOR REASONS EXPRESSED IN REF (A) POST BELIEVES (1) THAT BAHIA NEEDS TO IMPROVE ITS CRIME CONTROL AND THAT DACTYLOSCOPIC SYSTEM COULD HELP, (2) THAT HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS WITH THIS SYSTEM ARE UNLIKELY, AND (3) THAT FOR USG TO PREVENT THIS SALE WOULD RESULT IN POSSIBLY UGLY, UNNECESSARY INCIDENT BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES.

6. ACTION REQUESTED SECSTATE: PLEASE INFORM SOONEST OF STATUS OF EXPORT LICENSE RENEWAL APPLICATION AND ANY INFORMATION OR EXPLANATION CONSUL CAN PASS TO STATE SECRETARY.

7. ACTION REQUESTED BRASILIA: ANSWER FROM SECSTATE MAY BE CLASSIFIED AND WOULD REACH THIS POST SLOWLY BY CLASSIFIED POUCH. PLEASE, THEREFORE, TELEPHONE CONSUL UPON RECEIPT OF SECSTATE RESPONSE.

NOTE: THIS TELEGRAM HAS BEEN PREPARED IN DRAFT BY CONSUL AND

CARRIED BY AMERICAN OFFICER TO RIO DE JANEIRO FOR TRANS-
MISSION.
WHITNEY

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
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Disposition History: n/a
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